



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home National  
Historic Site  
413 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 391-3221  
[www.nps.gov/liho](http://www.nps.gov/liho)

## Lincoln Home NHS News Release

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**Contacts:**       **Laura Gundrum**, (217) 391-3215  
                      **Dave Blanchette**, (217) 558-8970

### **“An Historic Christmas” program presented at six downtown Springfield historic sites**

Springfield, IL –Ring in the holidays by touring six historic houses during “An Historic Christmas” program, from noon - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 15, at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois Executive Mansion, Elijah Iles House, Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site, Edwards Place Historic Home and Pasfield House Inn. Christmas caroling and a visit by Mary and Abraham Lincoln will take place at all six homes as follows:

<b>Name of home</b>	<b>Caroling Schedule Sound Celebration Chorus</b>	<b>Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln visit</b>
Lincoln Home	12:30pm-1:00 pm Concert in Visitor Center (VC)	Noon-12:30pm, VC 12:30pm-1:00 pm, VC concert
Illinois Executive Mansion	2:15-2:45pm	3:00-3:30pm
Elijah Iles House	1:30-2:00pm 3:45-4:15pm	4:30-5:00pm
Vachel Lindsay Home	3-3:30pm 4:30-5pm	3:45-4:15pm
Edwards Place	3-3:30pm 4:30-5pm	1:30-2:00pm
Pasfield House Inn	1:30-2pm 3:45-4:15pm	2:15-2:45pm

Each house will feature special holiday house tours and/or activities. This program is sponsored by Eastern National, Whitaker Sound, John and Sandy Hockenyos, Sangamon Historical Society, Coldstone Creamery, R.L. and Carolyn Moore, Sentinel Pest Control, and Café Moxo.

### **Lincoln Home National Historic Site-**

Take a tour of the beautifully restored Lincoln Home where Abraham Lincoln lived for 17 years. During this time, Lincoln raised his children, developed his political beliefs about equality and freedom, and became not only a prominent lawyer, but also President-Elect. Tours are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free tour tickets are available at the Visitor Center information desk.

From noon-12:30p.m., visit with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln in the Lincoln Home Visitor Center. After that, at 12:30pm, listen to a 30-minute concert of 1860s historic carols sung to Mary and Abraham Lincoln by the “Sound Celebration Chorus,” in Theater 1, of the Visitor Center. The “Sound Celebration Chorus” will sing “Oh Come All Ye Faithful,” “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and many other old-time carols. After the concert, browse in the Eastern National Museum shop for Lincoln Home ornaments and other holiday gifts. The “Sound Celebration Chorus,” a member of Sweet Adelines International, is a worldwide organization of women singers dedicated to musical education and the performance of four-part acappella harmony, barbershop style. For more information about this program or site, contact the Lincoln Home Visitor Center at 217-492-4150.

### **Illinois Executive Mansion**

Visit the Illinois Executive Mansion where staff from 22 Illinois museums and historic sites has each decorated a Christmas tree, using a theme representative of their site. In addition, the Illinois Executive Mansion will be decorated with dried grasses, magnolias, and hydrangeas taken from its gardens. While admiring the tree display, listen to carolers, from 2:15pm-2:45pm, and meet Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln from 3:00pm-3:30pm.

This restored, red brick Italianate mansion has been the home of Illinois governors since 1855, when Joel A. Matteson and his family moved in. Governor Matteson was followed by Governor William Bissell, who received the Lincolns at several large parties before they left for Washington. Beginning November 27, this Christmas tree display can also be seen, every Saturday, from 9:30am-1:00pm and every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:30am-11:00am, and 2:00pm-3:30pm. At these times visitors can take a tour of the mansion’s ballroom, formal parlors, and Lincoln bedroom. In these rooms are portraits of the Lincolns and their friend Edward D. Baker, a bust of Lincoln, bedroom furniture given to the Lincolns, and a spectacular table presented to President Lincoln which contains more than 20,000 pieces of inlaid wood. For more information about this program or site, contact the Illinois Executive Mansion at 217-782-6450.

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### **Elijah Iles House**

Talk to costumed docents at the Elijah Iles House that is decked out for the holidays with period trees, decorations, and candles. The Iles House, built by Elijah Iles in the Greek Revival style, is the oldest intact house in Springfield. Elijah Iles was Springfield’s first merchant and a friend of Abraham Lincoln. In the restored house, view the exquisite Barringer collection of pre-

Civil War furniture and spinning wheels from the Donner family. Join in the holiday fun of decorating cookies and creating unique ornaments. At the designated times, enjoy a visit from the Lincolns and carols sung by Sound Celebration Chorus. The Elijah Iles house is located at 628 South Seventh St., Springfield IL. For more information about this program or site, please contact the Elijah Iles House at 217-652-7302.

### **Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site**

Take a candle-lit tour of the Vachel Lindsay Home that will be decorated for the holidays with greenery and an old fashioned Christmas tree. The Lindsay Home is the birthplace and long-time home of poet Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, a famous early twentieth century poet and artist. From noon to 3 p.m., listen to the reading of Vachel Lindsay's Christmas poetry and piano music played by Virginia Hosking. Make a Christmas ornament while snacking on Christmas cookies. Enjoy Christmas carols sung by Sound Celebration Chorus from 3:00pm-3:30pm and 4:30pm-5:00pm. Sip spiced tea and exchange holiday greetings with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln from 3:45-4:15pm.

The Vachel Lindsay Home, built in the 1840s, on South Fifth Street was purchased in 1853 by C.M. Smith, whose wife, Anne Todd Smith, was Mary Todd Lincoln's sister. The Lincolns were frequent guests in the Smith Home, where a farewell reception was held for them prior to their departure for Washington D.C. in 1861. The Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site, administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, is located at 603 S. Fifth Street. For more information about this program or site, please contact Jennie Battles at 217-524-0901.

### **Pasfield House Inn**

Take a tour of and marvel at the interior design, architectural beauty, and Christmas decor of the 1896 Georgian-Revival Pasfield House. Three Christmas trees will liven up the Pasfield house—one is a Christmas tree decorated with 1840s hand-made ornaments, another tree will display the official City of Springfield ornaments, and the third tree will be decked out with wooden patriotic ornaments dedicated to American freedoms. In salute to Dr. Pasfield's contributions as a Camp Butler surgeon, there is a whimsical display of Civil War Santa Figures in the library. In addition, an *Illinois Stories* program about the 2010 and 2011 Executive Mansion tree displays will be shown. At specified times, the Sound Celebration Chorus carolers will sing and Mary and Abraham Lincoln will visit.

Three generations of the George Pasfield family lived on the estate that the remarkably preserved, present day Pasfield House is located on. George Pasfield Jr. built the existing Pasfield house that is an inn today. The Pasfield family often hired the young Abraham Lincoln in legal matters and assisted him with supporting the relocation of the State Capital to Springfield. The Pasfield House Inn is located at 525 S. Pasfield, Springfield IL. For more information about this program or site, contact Tony Leone at 217-525-3663.

## **Edwards Place Historic Home at the Springfield Art Association**

Experience a Civil War Christmas at Edwards Place as you tour the Italianate mansion trimmed in 1860s holiday decor. Costumed interpreters from the Soldiers' Aid Society will be on hand to describe the ways holidays were observed during the Civil War. Abraham and Mary Lincoln will pass through to greet guests from 1:30pm-2:00pm, and the "Sound Celebration Chorus" will visit to perform Christmas carols from 3:00pm-3:30pm and 4:30pm-5:00pm. In addition, visitors can make a Christmas cornucopia ornament, decorate a gingerbread house at the School of Art, and purchase locally-made bowls filled with steaming soup. Visitors should leave plenty of time to shop at the Holiday Hall sale, where one-of-a-kind artwork and crafts made by more than 45 regional artists will be available for purchase.

The Edwards Place, the home of prominent local attorney Benjamin Edwards, was a social center of 19th century Springfield where politicians such as Abraham Lincoln attended parties; it also hosted an encampment of soldiers on its lawn during the Civil War. The Edwards Place at the Springfield Art Association is located at 700 N. 4th St., Springfield, IL. For more information about this program or site, contact Erika Hoist at 217-523-2631.

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